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SKETCHES OF THE COUNTY
OF ROCKINGHAM, N. C.

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Rockingham, N.C.

**Its Topography, Geography, Climate, Soil,
and Resources, Agricultural and
Mineral.**

LEAKSVILLE:
"Gazette" Job Print,
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ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, N. C.,

Described by Townships.

Sketch of Wentworth Township.

BY JAMES D. GLENN.

Rockingham County was formed in 1785 from Guilford, and was named in honor of Charles Watson Wentworth, Marquis of Rockingham, who was a firm and devoted friend of America. Wentworth, the county-seat, is 116 miles north-west of Raleigh, and is located very near the centre of the county. It is built upon a high ridge that commands a most beautiful view of the whole country for miles around. The Court House itself is a very handsome building, being one of the best in the State, and is an ornament to the town and an honor to the county. The town proper is built mostly upon one long street that extends almost a half mile, and has some very nice private residences, four or five stores, in which merchandise of all kinds is sold, some very handsome law offices, two hotels, two churches, both male and female schools, several bar-rooms, tobacco factories, blacksmith shops, &c., &c. It has from three to four hundred inhabitants, and derives quite a trade from the surrounding country.

Before the war there were no townships in the county, and the only division was into "Captains' Districts." After the adoption

of the Constitution of 1868, the county was divided into seven townships. Two of these were afterwards sub-divided, making nine townships in all. That township in which the Court House was situated was called Wentworth, in honor of the county-seat.

The township is located near the centre of the county, and is mostly north of the Court House, extending to Dan river, which forms its northern boundary. The soil is diversified—a large part of it being of the light, gray, sandy sort so admirably adapted to the raising of fine, yellow tobacco, for which the county is noted. A part is of the red kind that is suitable for raising large crops of wheat, while along the water-courses, but especially along the banks of Dan river, the soil is of a dark, rich, alluvial character, upon which large crops of corn are raised,—enough to supply the wants of the township and furnish some for export.

About one-third of the land is in cultivation, one-third in original forest, and the balance in old field which is being rapidly improved by old-field pine. Whenever a piece of land is allowed to remain two or three years without cultivation it is soon covered with pines, and in a very short time the land will be completely shaded, which, together with the pine straw that accumulates every year, soon revives the fertility of the soil, and after remaining a few years in pines it will produce almost as fine tobacco as it did when first cleared.

Oaks, poplars, ash, hickory, gums, pines, and most all the timbers native to North Carolina are found in the forest, and furnish enough lumber to supply all home demands, and still enough is left to last for years to come. Persons desiring to export lumber have ample facilities for doing so either by raft or boat on Dan river, as it extends the whole length of the township.

All the fruits—such as apple, peach, cherry, pear, plum, &c.,—come to great perfection; also grapes and all small fruit. Blackberries grow wild in the fields, and when picked and dried command good prices at the stores. Sumac also abounds in the old fields, the leaves of which when dried command a good price; but the people have never taken hold of it as they have elsewhere.

All of the vegetables, as cabbage, potatoes, beans, peas, &c., are raised and generally command good prices at the towns in the county.

The principal products of the township are corn, wheat, oats, &c., and enough is most always raised to supply the needs of the people and to furnish some for shipment; but the great money crop is

tobacco. The tobacco raised varies in quality, from the heavy, dark kind raised on red land and bottoms, to the fine, fancy, bright, wrappers raised on light, gray soil—though the largest part of it is of the yellow kind, for which the township is noted.

All parts of the township are well watered by creeks and branches, some of which are of good size and of sufficient water-power to run good saw and grist mills. Among the largest mills are those of Moir, Saunders, Minor, Ratliff, Carter, Mobley, and others.

The people of the township are hard-working, sober and industrious, attending to their own business, striving to lay up something for a future day, and doing all they can to give their children every advantage of education possible. They are very social in their dispositions, and make the warmest of friends and kindest of neighbors. They are religious in their natures, being a God-loving, God-fearing people; and though most all the different denominations are represented among them, there is the very best of good feeling and Christian charity between members of the different churches.

Minerals are thought to exist in some parts of the township, though they have never been developed to any extent. Building rock abound, also a very fine sand-rock that will stand fire, and is used as a cap-rock in flues for curing tobacco.

The people being principally engaged in raising tobacco, had not given much attention to improved stock until within the last few years, but are now becoming very much interested, and there are a good many who have the Jerseys among cattle, and the Berkshire, Jersey Red, Poland-China, &c., in hogs. Good beef is raised with little trouble, and the people have generally plenty of milk and butter, and most of them raise enough meat for their own special use. A good many own sheep, which are raised with little trouble and expense, and are a profitable investment.

At the close of the war the whole country was prostrated, with no facilities for education; but each year since that time there has been a gradual improvement in the public schools, until all the children have the opportunity of acquiring a good, practical education. There are also several good private schools that are well patronized, and are presided over by well educated and competent teachers.

There is no written history of the township, but from information derived from the oldest inhabitants, there is every reason to believe the first settlements were made along the banks of Dan river.

William Byrd, who was employed to run the dividing line between the States of Virginia and North Carolina, received as compensation for his services 26,000 acres of land, located on both sides of Dan river, which he called his "Garden of Eden." A good part of this land is situated in the north-eastern part of the township. Mention is made of this land in "Byrd's History of the Dividing Line." About the year 1825 the late Dr. E. T. Brodnax found a beech tree upon his land, on which was cut the initials "W. B." in very large letters, also in smaller letters, "June 22nd, 1732." As William Byrd is known to have visited his lands in North Carolina during the summer of 1732, it is supposed that he cut it. The tree still stands, and the initials and the year are yet very plain. It is said that Byrd lost all his land in a game of cards, and that it fell to Gen. Farley, who had the land settled and built the first mill used in the county. It is said that in the retreat from Guilford Court House, during the Revolution, that the Americans crossed at a ford on Dan river in the northern end of the township.

Sketch of Leaksville Township.

BY J. TURNER MOREHEAD.

Leaksville township is in the northern part of the county, and is bounded on the south and east its whole length by Dan river, on the north by the Virginia line, and on the west by a line from a point on the Virginia line near Matrimony Mills to Dan river near Peter Wilson's, near the mouth of Whetstone creek. The shape of the township is triangular, the longest side of the triangle being about fourteen miles. The area of the township is about 27,000 acres.

On the west side of Smith's river, near Dan river, the soil is a dark, rich red, gradually varying as we leave the river to a light, gray and sandy soil as we approach the Virginia line. On the east side of Smith's river the soil is dark, and peculiarly adapted to clover and the grasses and small grain. This land, now called the "Meadows," is a level scope of country, which Col. Wm. Byrd, who

ran the line between the two States in 1728, called the "Garden of Eden." So well pleased was he with it that he took the pay for his services in this land.

About one-half of the land is cleared, one-third in original forest, and one-sixth in pine.

The lands are susceptible of great improvement, holding fertilizers well, and yielding under good cultivation fine crops of wheat, corn, tobacco, oats, rye, potatoes, hay, &c. The north-western part of the township produces that fine quality of tobacco so eagerly sought after by the manufacturers of the highest grades of chewing tobacco. Being a tobacco country, the growing of grasses pays well, and the demand largely exceeds the production.

The township is remarkably well watered, by such streams as Smith river and Dan river, Buffalo creek, Matrimony creek, Tackett's branch, Blue creek, Cascade creek, and various other small streams.

The water-power of these streams is very great. The fall of Smith river at the Leaksville Cotton Mills furnishes 2,750 horse-power, according to the estimate of a very competent engineer. The smaller streams have similar falls and furnish horse-power in proportion to their volume. At present not more than 500 horse-power is utilized in the township.

The people are of a very social turn, and are hospitable in a high degree. No section of the State has welcomed more cordially the strangers who have come into their midst. The Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalians and Presbyterians are all represented by large and flourishing churches. There are also a good many Primitive Baptists. The people have always looked upon education as a safeguard to society, and therefore schools are encouraged. The politics are mainly Democratic, but the people are willing that men shall think and act for themselves in this matter.

There are large beds of coal; magnetic iron ore, graphite, soapstone, sandstone, mica, &c., are also abundant. All these resources are undeveloped, awaiting the advent of capital.

The forest abounds with all the various varieties of oak, hickory, maple, ash, poplar, gum, pine, &c. Various mineral springs are also in the township, whose waters are known to be strongly impregnated with medicinal properties.

The manufacturies are as follows: Six saw mills, five grist mills, five tobacco factories, three wagon and buggy shops, one shuttle-

block factory, one cabinet shop, one foundry and agricultural works one woolen mill, and one cotton mill. The cotton mill was established in 1839, being among the first mills in the State, by the late Gov. J. M. Morehead. The products of the cotton and woolen mills have a national reputation on account of their sterling worth and acknowledged superiority.

The stock is being constantly improved with such blood as Alder-derney, Ayreshire, Devon and Jersey among the cattle; Berkshire, Chester, Essex, Jersey Red and Poland-China among the hogs, and Merino and Cotswold among the sheep.

There is a school of high grade under the charge of the County Superintendent of Public Instruction. Also another, a school of music and art. The public schools are well attended and are doing good work.

The town of Leaksville is situated in this township, within half a mile of Dan river, and is a popular and growing tobacco market. It has three warehouses for the sale of leaf tobacco, and several flourishing tobacco factories. The population of the town, including the cotton factory, aggregate 800. Five stores, in which all articles of general merchandise are sold, two others that sell groceries exclusively, and a millinery establishment, are among its business houses. It also contains four churches—Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian and Episcopal. Since the completion of the D., M. & S. W. Railroad to Leaksville, about nine months ago, the trade of the town has grown greatly, and its population has increased. Many new houses have been built, and several others, including a large brick hotel and a tobacco factory, are in progress of erection. Before the next manufacturing season arrives, six, and probably eight factories will be ready to engage in the manufacture of all grades of chewing tobacco. In addition, mechanics of various trades, such as builders, blacksmiths, wagon and buggy makers, harness makers, boot and shoe makers, a jeweler, a tinsmith, and a tailor, abound in Leaksville. A weekly newspaper, with a first-class job printing office connected, is also a feature. The town was incorporated by Act of the General Assembly in 1874, yet it existed for many years before—ever since about the year 1819. It now has railroad connection with Danville, Va. Dan river is also navigable for bateaux to Danville for some distance above Leaksville. The railroad and river furnish ample shipping facilities for the township.

Population of the township is about 2,400.

Sketch of Mayo Township.

BY F. J. STONE.

Mayo township lies in the north-western portion of Rockingham county—being bounded on the north by Virginia, on the west by Mayo river, on the south by Dan river, and on the east by Leaksville township, and contains 45,000 acres.

The soil on the upland is gray and brown-red, the latter predominating. The gray is adapted to the growth of fine, yellow tobacco, and the brown-red to the growth of rich, bright, mahogany tobacco. These lands yield abundant crops of corn, wheat, oats, rye, and other cereals, under fair cultivation.

The vegetables and fruits usually cultivated in this latitude grow and mature well here, and the fruit on the most elevated portions of the township are rarely killed by frost.

About two-fifths of the land is in original growth of oak, hickory, poplar, &c., and about one-fifth of the land from which the original growth has been cut is now thickly set with pine.

Dan river and Mayo river, flowing along the western and southern boundary of the township, on which are fine water-powers, have upon them a large amount of bottom land, which yield abundant crops of grain and hay. The bottoms, and most of the uplands, are well adapted to the growth of grasses. Beside the rivers mentioned, there are creeks flowing through the township upon which there are fine bottom lands and good mills, and excellent water-powers not yet utilized.

The land is generally undulating, but slightly mountainous in the western part of the township. In the mountainous section fine specimens of iron ore are found. In the south-eastern portion of the township there is an inexhaustible bed of coal, of superior quality, and with railroad facilities for shipping could be worked at good profits.

There is a railroad running to Leaksville—a distance of only three miles from the township line; and from thence there is a projected railroad through the southern part of the township, upon which considerable grading has already been done, and ample railroad facilities are reasonably expected at an early date.

The population is principally native-born, and chiefly engaged in

agricultural pursuits. Socially, morally and intellectually, they compare favorably with the rural population of any portion of the United States.

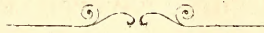
The township has some good public school-houses, and there is a manifest increased interest in the cause of education.

The voting population of the township is about four hundred, with a Democratic majority of about one hundred.

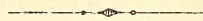
Stoneville is a thriving village, in the northern part of the township, containing several stores, tobacco factory, &c.

A fair per cent. of the population of the township belong to some branch of the Church.

Raising of stock is attracting the attention of the people, as is evidenced by the introduction of improved breeds of horses, cattle, hogs, &c. Improved implements of husbandry are being introduced by the farmers. The lands are being improved, and fertilizing is being done on scientific principles. Abundant crops are rewarding these efforts, and the people of the township are prosperous and contented.



Sketch of New Bethel Township.



New Bethel township lies in the south-western portion of Rockingham county, bounded by Guilford county on the south, and reaches Dan river on the north.

It covers an area of about fifty-two square miles, (33,731 acres,) and includes about one-fifteenth of the surface of the whole county. According to the census of 1880, it contained 1,795 inhabitants—two-thirds of them being white people. By estimation, one-third of the lands are in cultivation; one-third in old fields, abandoned to pines which are rapidly reclaiming it from barrenness; and the balance, one-third, in original forests—oak, hickory, poplar, ash, maple, dogwood, &c.

The principal avocation of the people is agriculture, and the gray, —in some localities reddish—soil is responsive, affording a ready yield of wheat, corn, oats, rye, potatoes, the cultivated grasses, &c.; but the chief product is tobacco, to which the soil is specially

adapted. The various fruits adapted to this climate may also be grown here successfully.

The surface of the land is in the main level, partaking of an undulating character, but nowhere too broken for cultivation. The principal water-courses (except Dan river on the north) are Haw river, and Troublesome, Jacob's, and Hogan's creeks, all of which have numerous tributaries, affording an abundance of water-power and desirable locations for mills. Upon all these streams in the lowlands abounds wild grass, indigenous and growing without cultivation, chiefly wild oats. With little attention to irrigation this wild grass grows in luxuriance and abundance, making hay unsurpassed by any of the cultivated grasses—thus affording fine facilities in this and Simpsonville township, lower down on some of the same streams, for raising cattle and stock of all kinds at small expense.

The bottom lands upon Haw river, which for the size of the stream are, perhaps, not exceeded in acreage anywhere in this portion of the State, and which are of wonderful fertility, have in many places for a number of years presented only neglected jungles, broad and almost impenetrable marshes, covered with alders, wild-rose and swamp dogwood, and, on account of the luxuriant wild grass, becoming a general resort for cattle. In the winter these swamps are often frequented by thousands of wild ducks. It is noted with pleasure that during the last two years a few enterprising citizens, aided by recent legislation, have already made encouraging progress in draining and reclaiming these swamps, which promise speedily a yield of corn per acre beyond even that of the most fertile bottoms on the Dan.

The township is well supplied with flour-mills, corn-mills and saw-mills, stores of general merchandise, and churches. There are in the township, under the age of twenty-one, about 550 white children, and about 350 colored, who are furnished with convenient schools. There are no towns within the township, and the railroads nowhere enter its borders; but the Richmond & Danville Railroad below, and the Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley Railroad above, runs within four or five miles of its boundaries; and Reidsville and Greensboro, distant each about twelve miles, afford ready and convenient markets.

The people as a class are industrious and successful. It is doubtful if any locality in this progressive county has made more sub-

stantial advancement since 1865 than New Bethel township in mental, moral, social, educational and material improvement. She cannot, as some of her sister townships, boast of historical landmarks and the birth-places of the State's illustrious; but upon the patriotism of her unobtrusive population neither rumor nor tradition tells of one blot. In the bold heroism of war, self-sacrificing and sublime, and in the industrial victories of peace, transcendent and abiding, the splendid achievements of her people present to the historian and the statesman a fertile field for comment and illustration.

H. R. SCOTT.

Sketch of Oregonville Township.

BY T. L. RAWLEY.

Oregonville township embraces the north-eastern part of Rockingham county, being bounded on the north by Virginia and Dan river, and on the east by the county of Caswell. It contains 47,900 acres.

The soil on the upland is generally gray, and well adapted to the growth of fine, yellow tobacco, in the production of which the township probably excels any in the county and is surpassed by but few in the whole fine tobacco belt. The bottom lands on Dan river, and the creeks flowing through the township, are very rich and produce fine crops. About one-half of the land is in original growth and well timbered with oak, hickory, poplar, dogwood, &c., with quite a quantity of land once cleared, but now overgrown with pine.

In addition to the tobacco crop, the improved lands produce fine crops of corn, wheat, rye, oats, potatoes, &c. Apples, peaches, grapes, and all the fruits grown in this latitude, grow finely here, and could, with the facilities for shipping, be made a source of great profit.

Wolf Island and Lick Fork creeks flow through the township, with other streams, on which there are good water-powers, and are now three good grist and saw-mills.

The population of the township is principally native-born, and to

a large extent engaged in agricultural pursuits, and will compare favorably with the rural population of the country generally, both socially and otherwise.

There are five churches in the township, one of which was first organized and the building erected by the father of Chief-Justice Ruffin and the father of Gov. Morehead, assisted by others, both of whom were members of that church. A fair per cent. of the population of the township is attached to some branch of the Church.

The township has some as good public school-houses as are to be found, and others are being built, which indicates an increasing interest in the cause of education, as good schools are rarely found in poor houses.

The voting population of the township is about seven hundred, with a Democratic majority of less than one hundred.

There is an increased interest being taken in stock-raising, which is manifested by the introduction of improved breeds of horses, cattle, hogs, &c.

The township has been either the birth-place, or the place of rearing of some of the most eminent men of the State, both in Church and State,—among whom could be named Rev. N. F. Reid, Chief-Justice Ruffin, Gov. Morehead, and others.

The Piedmont Air-Line Railway runs through the township for about eight miles, and affords ample means of transportation and travel for the citizens of the whole township.

With good government, which we have and are likely to continue to have, a better system of public schools than ever before, with an increased interest in education: as fine water as can be found, a climate unsurpassed for health, we have “a land beautiful for situation,” and one that is good to migrate to.

Sketch of Simpsonville Township.

BY W. N. MEBANE.

Simpsonville is one of the four southern townships of Rockingham county, and is bounded south by Guilford line, with adjoining

townships of Williamsburg on the east, New Bethel on the west, and Wentworth on the North. Its northern line runs within about three miles of the Court House at Wentworth; its north-eastern corner embraces the south-western suburbs of the town of Reidsville; its south-eastern corner is intersected by the Piedmont Railroad, at or near Benaja depot, which is the next station and about nine miles south of Reidsville; and its north-western corner is about one and a half miles south of Pleasantville, three miles south of the river Dan, and about two and a half miles south-east of Danbury bridge over the mouth of Jacob's creek—a locality historically interesting, as near the residence of ex-Governor Alexander Martin, who was a Colonel of regular Continentals in the Revolution, and who, at his mansion near Danbury bridge, entertained President George Washington on his southern tour to Salem after the war.

A diagram of this township from the map of the latest county survey (that of 1868) constitutes an approximate parallelogram, the length of the township from east to west being about ten miles, and its width from north to south being about eight miles. The principal streams are the Saxapahaw river, (now called Haw,) and Troublesome creek, both of which flow from their neighboring sources, near the Guilford and Forsyth line, easterly, enter this township in its south-western corner and thence run, the former through and along its southern border, and the latter through the middle of the township—nearly parallel to and about three or four miles to the north of the Haw—emptying into that stream in Williamsburg township, a little below the railroad crossing. Both streams are fed by numerous tributaries, and among those of the Troublesome are the Piney creeks, flowing south-east by Boyd's mill and Wade's mill creek. The drainage is almost entirely into the Cape Fear basin, through the Haw—only a very narrow strip on the northern border draining into the Dan and Roanoke, through the Wolf Island and Rock House creeks. Its topography is very similar to that of the southern portions of the adjoining townships of Williamsburg and New Bethel, the surface being for the most part level or gently undulating.

The forest growth is principally oak, but embraces also hickory, walnut, sourwood, dogwood, maple, ash, mulberry, poplar, and old-field short-leaf pine, in about the proportions usual in Piedmont North Carolina. About two-fifths of its area are in original forest,

one-fifth in old-field pine, and the remaining two-fifths cleared land. It produces nearly all the fruits, vegetables and berries of the temperate zone, and its crops are corn, wheat, rye, oats, hay and tobacco.

The soil of the uplands is, for the most part, grayish sandy, of the quality found best adapted to the growth of the finest yellow tobacco, which indeed forms its principal and most profitable crop. The possible and not improbable annual yield of an acre of Simpsonville gray land under good cultivation is from \$120.00 to \$300.00, such results being not uncommon. The lowlands of the Haw and its tributaries, being rich alluvium, produce excellent and certain crops of corn and grass; and they are so admirably distributed through its territory as to give this township the very best resources for profitable and self-sustaining farms—good corn and forage land alongside of the finest tobacco land.

Its mineral resources are, so far as known, limited to iron, but that is of the very finest quality—stored in beds easy of access and development, and of great richness, some of which have been worked with profit at irregular intervals for more than one hundred years. The iron ore range crosses the south-eastern corner of the township from the Haw to the Troublesome, and is a continuation or north-western branch of the Tuscarora range, known otherwise as the “Guilford County Iron Ore Range,” which extends from Abbott’s creek in Davidson county, across Guilford by way of Friendship and into Rockingham through this township, being more than thirty miles long. The kind of ore is classed as titaniferous granular magnetite, being different from another ore found on Colonel Thomas R. Sharp’s land in Leaksville township—that being classed as red hematite. As may be more fully seen by reference to Vol. 1 of the Geological Reports of Professor Kerr, late State Geologist, Dr. Lesley, of the Pennsylvania Geological Survey, has officially reported of this ore range that its beds have an average width of four feet, and that centuries of heavy mining can not exhaust them; he saying also of the bed situated in this township near the Haw river, on the lands of the wards of Thos. W. Hopkins, heirs of Levi G. Shaw, that this bed is full six feet across, solid ore, and that in a run of 800 yards there are *apparently two hundred thousand tons above water level*. Vide Kerr’s Report, Vol. I, page 243. In same volume may be found, on pages 245 and 246, the quantitative analyses of sixteen samples from this range, made by Dr. Genth;

chemist and mineralogist of our State Survey, in 1871—analysis No. 38 being from the Shaw bed, and No. 39 from farm of P. Hopkins, Esq. These ores having been put to practical test as lining for furnaces in Philadelphia, are reported as answering same purpose as Lake Superior ore, and to be superior to Champlain or Adirondack ores.

The population of this township, according to last census, was 1,833. The registration of 1880 shows 363 white, and 175 colored voters. The assessment records of 1883 showed the number of acres listed for taxation to have been 36,500, valued at \$151,034.00, while its personal property was assessed at \$71,107.00—the total valuation of property being \$222,141.00.

Its inhabitants are moral, industrious and intelligent—good neighbors and good citizens, partaking of those characteristics which distinguish the people of Rockingham county—courtesy in manners, integrity in morals, fidelity and courage alike in peace and war. Of its citizens prominent in the civil annals of the county, may be mentioned Wilson S. Hill, deceased, Blake W. Brasswell, deceased, and Hon. Geo. D. Boyd—the two former members of the House of Commons respectively from 1829 to 1831, and from 1834 to 1838, and the last, Senator from Rockingham for a long series of years commencing in 1842, and still surviving at a very advanced age. In more recent times this township furnished a member of House of Commons in 1863-'64, Col. A. J. Boyd, and Col. James Irvin Senator in 1874-'75.

Its manufactures are limited to the iron-works on the Shaw place, now under lease to Mr. Graham, and to the excellent and profitable merchant mills of Cunningham, Wade, M. T. Cummings and Hon. Geo. D. Boyd, and others—Mr. Boyd's mill being also equipped for carding wool.

The soil of Simpsonville has been rendered historic from the fact that through its whole extent, from east to west along the Flat Rock road, the main body of Gen. Greene's army retreated before Lord Cornwallis in February, 1781; and when Gen. Greene, after being reinforced in Halifax, Va., recrossed the Dan, he pitched his camp at the Speedwell Iron Works on the Troublesome, and from that point marched out to the battle of Guilford Court House, (fought March 15th, 1781, at Martinsville,) and returned to the Iron Works after the battle, where he remained in camp three or four days expecting to be attacked, and thence went in pursuit of Cornwallis

who had retreated towards Wilmington. *Vide* Caruther's Sketches, Vol. 2 of Old North State in 1776.

NOTE: From the fact that a number of cannon-balls and grape-shot have been found near the old Dead Timbers Ford in Wentworth township, just below Settle's bridge on Dan river, it is well nigh certain that some of Greene's army—(most probably Virginia reinforcements)—crossed the Dan at this point on their way to the Iron Works headquarters. Mr. Albert Wray, at Waddill P. O., has one of these cannon-balls now in his possession—having been originally a three-pounder.

Sketch of Madison Township.

BY W. N. MEBANE.

Madison township, so named from the town of Madison, comprises that part of Rockingham county which is bounded on the south by the river Dan, on the east by the Mayo river, on the north by the Virginia line, (Henry county,) and on the west by the Stokes county line. Its greatest length, from the point where the Dan crosses the Stokes line, on or near Allen's Delight, the plantation of Major Len. W. Anderson, north to the Virginia line, is about sixteen miles; while from the mouth of Beaver Island creek, near the town of Madison, its length from north to south is perhaps not more than thirteen miles. Its greatest width from the confluence of Dan and Mayo rivers, west to Stokes line, is about six miles; while its width from the point where the Mayo enters this State, near Anglin's mill, along the Virginia line to the Stokes corner, does not exceed three miles. Making allowance for the meanderings of the Dan on the south, whose general course is easterly, and for the Mayo on the east, whose course is southerly, its diagram would give us an approximate rectangle, with an average length of about fourteen miles from north to south and an average width of about four miles.

By the most recent statistics the population, including the town of Madison with 361 inhabitants, is 1,851—being nearly the same

as that of Simpsonville township, which has 1,833. Its white voters are 224; colored voters, 119. It lists for taxation 27,598 acres, assessed at \$111,080.00, and 103 town lots, assessed at \$22,362.00—its total assessment of property, real and personal, being \$201,089.00.

Its principal water-courses, besides the rivers Dan and Mayo, are Beaver Island creek, which flows throughout the township from north-west to south-east, entering the Dan two miles above the Mayo junction; Little Beaver Island, which joins the former creek very near its mouth, and Reid creek, which empties into the Dan about two miles higher up.

Its topography is much diversified, the northern and most of the eastern portion being made up for the most part of the high hills and elevated plateau of the Mayo mountain, through which breaks the rapid Mayo like a mountain torrent. The western border is a high and comparatively level plain, and its southern portion is one of the very finest and richest sections of the beautiful Dan valley, along which, notably at and near to the town of Madison, are divers outcrops of the shale of the underlying Dan river coal-field.

The water-power of the creeks named is very fine, and has been partially utilized at the excellent mills of Cardwell and Foy; but the water-power of the Mayo, now utilized only by the mill of John H. Price, four miles above Madison, is *extraordinary*, and indeed unsurpassed in the State, and believed to be equal to if not superior to that upon the Smith river at Morehead's Factory near Leaksville. At the foot of Mayo mountain, near Mr. Robert Lewis', this river, at one place falling about four feet perpendicular, can be all turned upon machinery by a small wing dam and a shallow canal; and indeed the Mayo, from the Virginia line to its mouth, furnishes sites for mills and factories unsurpassed anywhere.

Not quite one-half of the land has been cleared, and the forests, exceptionally fine and perhaps superior to any in the county, have the advantage of other townships in this county, that they are interspersed very liberally with the finest yellow pine. With gray land on the Stokes border, equal to any in the county for fine yellow tobacco—with rich, red clay on the southern slope of Mayo mountain, best suited for wheat, clover and rich, waxy tobacco, and with the varied soil of its northern border—now gray, now red—and the certain resources for the finest grain, furnished by the rich bottom lands of the Dan, the Mayo, and their numerous tributaries, this township needs only the railroad and the steam engine to

treble its money value. The Dan furnishes about three feet depth of water at Madison, where its width is about 225 feet; the Mayo, a swifter but more shallow stream, being about two-thirds as wide. A good bridge, with stone piers, spans the Dan at Madison, and an iron bridge is under contract to cross the Mayo at Joyce's ford, six miles above Madison. Bateaux ply frequently from Madison to Danville, Va., forty-five miles down the river. The N. C. Midland railroad, projected from Danville to Winston or Statesville, and partly built, would run by Madison up the Dan. As to health, climate, water-power, and all natural resources, and as to the excellence of its present population, in the best qualities of mind and heart, no township of the good county of Rockingham surpasses this.

The town of Madison, beautifully located in the forks of the Dan and Mayo, named in honor of the President of that name and founded about 1820, is a pleasant village, with excellent hotel, good stores, good churches, (Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian,) of intelligent, orderly and pious population, and hath a virtue, deemed most excellent and most enviable in the individual man—a quiet contentment with its lot.

In Stokes county at Peters' creek, a few miles west of the north-west corner of this township, ended the survey of the dividing State line, made by Colonel William Byrd, of Virginia, in the year 1732. The river Mayo derives its name from that of a surveyor in Byrd's company. The name of the river Dan is said to be an abbreviation of "Danaho," the name of a chieftain of the Saura tribe of Indians. This tribe had corn-fields and a town on the river in Wentworth township, at the late Dr. Brodnax' plantation, and from it came the name of the mountain in Stokes—Sauratown. Unlike the river which flows into the Dan at Leaksville, the Mayo still perpetuates in its name that of the surveyor of 1732; whilst the other river, though by Col. Byrd named Irvin for another surveyor, still clings to the name of an old trapper who lived on its banks in the pioneer days, by the name of Smith.

About the year 1818 great interest, and even excitement, prevailed along the Dan as to what point would prove to be the head of steamboat navigation. Some wily speculators, whose names may be more fully seen by reference to the case of Morehead *vs.* Hunt, in Vol. 1 Devereaux' N. C. Equity Report, succeeded in causing it to be generally believed that the steamboats, having given Danville

and Leaksville the go by, would stop short of Madison and turn back from Jackson—a town that *was* to be but never *was*, on the north side of the Dan at Eagle Falls; and about that time was current an old song which embraced the town of Madison under a name given it in its early days, when it was celebrated as a market-place for Western drove-hogs, and sung to the air of “Yankee Doodle:”

“Danville’s drunk, and Leaksville’s sunk—
Hogtown’s all on fire;
The steamboat’s come to Jackson town,
But can not git up higher.”

Sketch of Huntsville Township.

BY W. N. MEBANE.

West of New Bethel and south of Mayo and Madison townships, in the north-west corner of Rockingham county, lies the township of Huntsville. Its average length from the Dan south to the Guilford line is about ten miles; its width from Stokes county eastward is about five miles. If New Bethel, Simpsonville and Williamsburg may not be inaptly called Haw river townships, this, with the other remaining sub-divisions, belong to the Dan river group. In comparison with the others it is the smallest, in area and population; the number of acres listed for taxation being 27,375, assessed at \$86,149.00—total valuation of property, real and personal, \$115,914.00. Total number of inhabitants, 1,297; white voters, 246; colored voters, 53.

Its southern portion is an elevated and comparatively level plateau, while along the Dan it is a beautifully undulating hill country. Upper Hogan’s creek, with its forks and tributaries, waters the central and eastern part, while its western and southern borders are drained by Belew’s creek.

Near its north-western corner runs the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley railroad, which will probably soon send out a stem through the centre of the township to the town of Madison, along the dead level of the Rocky Springs road. The soil varies from red to gray,

the latter largely predominating, however; and thus, like the residue of the county, its chief resource is fine tobacco. While heretofore its development has been somewhat retarded by remoteness from market, now, by the completion of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley road, with a depot within its borders near Linville's, it will have ample facilities for import and export, and indeed its lands are fast doubling in value. In bright intelligence, sturdy manhood, and the other qualities that constitute good citizens, its people are the peers of those in other sections of the county.

It has two first-class merchant mills—J. Wright Moore's, on the waters of Belew's creek, and P. D. Price's, known as Searcy's old mill, on Hogan's creek—which stream, by the way, is so swift and copious, and so rapid in its descent, as to be perhaps unequalled in North Carolina as a mill stream.

Among its citizens that have been pre-eminent in the annals of Rockingham, were Thomas Searcy and his son Alexander Searcy, Mark Harden, Alex. Sneed, James T. Reynolds, Sr., Ulysses Hand, R. B. Henderson, and Jno. M. Lindsay and his son William R. Lindsay. Messrs. Hand and Lindsay have been Senators from this county since the war, and the others named, except the Searcys, members of the House of Commons at different periods from 1805 to 1879. Perhaps no other township can boast of more worthy or more numerous legislative representatives.

As to proportion of cleared to timber land, character of forest growth and agricultural products, these are not unlike other parts of this county that have been described.

Near the forks of the road, close by Searcy's mill and Esquire Ab. Neal's, was a celebrated deer stand, frequented in former times by old uncle Jimmie Morehead and other amateur sportsmen; and it is said that uncle Jimmie, who was a distinguished lawyer, well known and well beloved by the Bar and the people of Rockingham, would frequently make a knowledge of the location of this deer stand a test of the intelligence of the opposing counsel's witness in suits from this neighborhood. "Well, witness, do you know where the deer stand is, near the 'yaller rocks?'" Witness: "No, sir." To the jury: "Why, gentlemen, everybody that knows anything, knows that; so don't believe a word the witness has said."

Huntsville, too, has its permanent landmark of the Revolutionary war, in what is still known as the "Baggage Road," which, from Guilford line near Ogburn's cross-roads on the Flat Rock road, to

R. B. Henderson's, forms the eastern dividing line from New Bethel township. From Henderson's, this road runs north-east, and crosses the Dan at Lone Island ford. When Gen. Greene moved north from Martinsville to retreat to the lower Dan in Halifax, before Earl Cornwallis, by the Bruce's and Flat Rock roads, in February, 1781, he dispatched his baggage across the country by this short and level route, and over the Dan at Lone Island. Much if not all of this old road was opened out through the wilderness by Greene's engineers; and, as the land-suitor told his counsel about the tract in controversy, "it is thar yet," and its name preserves its history. An excellent road, too, and a monument to some skillful engineer of Gen. Greene.



Sketch of Williamsburg Township.



Williamsburg is one of the seven original townships formed in 1868, and no change has ever taken place in its boundaries in formation of other townships. It lies in the south-east corner of the county, being bounded on the north by Oregonville township, on the east by Caswell county, on the south by Guilford county, and on the west by Simpsonville township. It is rectangular in shape, covers an area of about 50,000 acres, and valued for taxation at \$513,916.

The surface is slightly rolling, but not so much so as the average lands of the county—being sufficiently level to admit of the successful use of sulky-plows and reapers.

The soil is generally light gray, interspersed with clay, varying in color between a yellow and a bright red in certain localities. It is capable of growing a wide range of crops to a high degree of perfection. The soil is, in the main, about the same as that of the adjoining townships. The bottom lands on Haw river and its tributaries are remarkably fertile.

The population, outside of the town of Reidsville, are chiefly native-born, and are as intelligent as the average rural population. They number about 6,000, and are remarkably industrious and enterprising. A large per cent. of the people belong to some branch of the Christian church.

About two-fifths of the land is still in original forest of fine timber trees, such as the oak, hickory, maple, beech, birch, poplar, ash, &c.; about two-fifths is in a state of cultivation, and the remaining fifth is grown over with pine—a tree that takes worn-out lands of this section, and within a few years restores them to their original fertility.

This township has given to the bench some of its most talented jurists, the nation some of its wisest statesmen, and in defense of its country a soldiery whose courage has been unsurpassed by any of ancient or modern times.

NOTE: The balance of the sketch of this township will be given in the sketch of the town of Reidsville.

TOWNS.

THE TOWN OF REIDSVILLE.

BY D. BARNES.

Nothing illustrates the great advancement of the people of North Carolina in the elements of material prosperity since the war more forcibly than the rise and unexampled growth of the so-called tobacco towns. The town of Reidsville furnishes a striking example of the truth of this statement.

This place previous to the war was known only as a country post-office and half-way station on the stage-line between Danville and Greensboro—the single store and the two families residing here not making it of sufficient size to be classed even as a village.

Upon the building of the Piedmont railroad in 1863, the place became the principal station between Danville, Va., and Greensboro, N. C. About this period the late Joseph Holderby, Esq., bought a tract of land covering what is now a considerable part of the town, expressing his conviction that the place, from its central location, accessibility from the surrounding counties, and its high elevation and healthful surroundings, would some day become quite a town.

In 1866 Maj. M. Oaks, then an official of the Piedmont railroad, attracted by the natural advantages of the place, bought a lot and built and opened a hotel here, on the site of the present Piedmont Hotel.

Up to this period there was only one business house here, a general mercantile business conducted by Wm. Lindsey and H. K. Reid. In the fall of 1867, a small store was built and opened by Oaks, Smith & Co. This, at the time, was considered quite a venture, *one* mercantile establishment being, in the opinion of many, fully sufficient to meet the wants of the section.

Major Oaks, with an earnestness that was then considered by his friends as but little short of folly, began to predict that the place was destined to become a town of importance, insisting that energy and capital only were needed to make Reidsville a flourishing market centre for the surrounding country. So sanguine was he in this respect that in 1870 he purchased one hundred acres of land from Wm. Lindsey, Esq., declaring, with what proved to be almost prophetic foresight, that he would build a town on it.

His next step was to sell, for a nominal sum, a site for a second hotel, which was built by Dr. John W. Smith in 1871. It has since been enlarged, and is now known as the Exchange Hotel.

In the year 1871 Oaks & Dalton began the manufacture of tobacco in a small building where the store of Harris Bros. & Stone now stands. The trouble and inconvenience of buying leaf at the barn suggested to Oaks the establishment of a leaf market at Reidsville. He had no money, but a double stock of energy, combined with an unbounded confidence in the future growth of the town. He then, in the fall of 1871, prompted only by his own confidence of ultimate success, and against the advice, and almost the opposition of his friends, decided to build a Warehouse for the sale of leaf tobacco—paying no attention to the jeers of those who could not understand how a leaf tobacco market could be established, as they termed it, “without a bank, and without buyers or manufacturers.”

On January 19th, 1872, Oaks & Allen opened the Piedmont Warehouse, and the first sale of leaf tobacco at auction took place. This was followed by a good year's business, the amount of leaf sold being far in excess of that anticipated by the most hopeful friends and citizens of Reidsville. To meet the wants of the trade Oaks & Allen the next year put up the building now known as the Piedmont Warehouse. This business may well be considered the real

foundation of the growth and prosperity of Reidsville. From this date her progress was assured. Business men began to be attracted to the place. Those who had considered Oaks' ideas as entirely visionary began to think there might be something reasonable after all in the idea that Reidsville, situated as she is in the heart of one of the finest tobacco-growing sections of the world, should have at least a part of the trade that had so long flowed to Virginia to enrich her towns and cities, and that a home market for the productions of our section and the manufacture of our products, as near as possible to the point of growth, could not fail to be the foundation of permanent prosperity for both producers and manufacturers.

In April, 1872, the Farmers' Warehouse was opened by Smith, Allen & Co. Trade continuing to increase, Redd's Warehouse was built in 1874; the Eagle Warehouse in 1878, and the Star Warehouse in 1882. The leaf sales have grown from the business done in 1872 in a house 40x60 feet to four large Warehouses, two of them brick, and all of them doing a good business. A fifth Warehouse of brick is now building, and will be ready for business by the close of the year. The building of the sixth, to be the largest in the State, is under consideration; from all of which the planters of the surrounding sections may rest assured that the best facilities for the sale of their tobacco will be available in the Reidsville market.

Our Warehouse men are live, energetic men, experienced judges of the weed and of its worth, and the growth of the leaf business to its present proportions offers the best evidence of their attention to the interests of the planters. Of our

TOBACCO MANUFACTURING

interests, the citizens of our county and town have the greatest reason to be proud. As before stated, the first tobacco manufactured here was by Oaks & Dalton, in 1871, in the basement of a store-room. The foundation of the first factory was laid by D. Barnes and B. A. Crafton in July, 1871—a frame building 34x52 feet, which looked large *then*. The manufacturing business has steadily increased with and even gone ahead of the leaf business, (our manufacturers buying leaf in adjacent markets,) having grown from one room with a capacity of 50,000 pounds in 1871, to ten or twelve first-class plug and twist factories in 1884, ranging in capacity from two to eight hundred thousand pounds per annum, furnished with the latest improved machinery, and the largest with steam, making the various styles and grades of plug and twist

goods, bright goods being a specialty. In addition to these, four or five brick factories are building, to be finished by the opening of the season of 1885. One of these, that of Messrs. Harris Bros., who have grown up with the town, will be, it is said, the largest plug and twist factory in the South.

Reidsville has also two smoking tobacco and cigarette factories. Her manufacturers find a market for their goods in the South and West mostly, competing and comparing favorably with the long-established factories of Virginia.

The mercantile interests of Reidsville have kept pace with that of tobacco, and the planter is no longer under the necessity of going elsewhere for his supplies. The business is represented by men of energy, judgment and capacity, who by the stocks they carry show they are up to the times, know the wants of the public, and are able to supply them. The business in this line comprises about twenty-five dry goods and grocery stores, many of them handsomely fitted up, and kept in a manner that would be creditable to a town of larger pretensions. Besides these are four drug stores, three hardware and one furniture store, five confectionery stores, two jewelry and three millinery establishments.

Other interests are represented by one bank, three hotels, a number of boarding-houses, three steam saw-mills, two grist-mills, one shuttle-block factory, two steam box factories, two lumber yards and three livery stables. A Female Seminary has been in successful operation several years, as is the Reidsville Male Academy. A district has been laid off, and legal steps taken, for the establishment of a Graded School, and which the committee hope to get under way early the coming year. There are two weekly newspapers, one opera-house, and a handsome brick market-house and town-hall. A fire department is being organized, an engine bought, and cisterns being arranged to ensure a supply of water. There are two colored, and four churches for whites, representing the Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Episcopal denominations.

Reidsville has an estimated population of from 3,000 to 3,500, which is steadily on the increase, judging by the number of buildings erected the present year, amounting to more than doubly that of any previous year, and including both business houses and private residences. There is a constant demand for houses in excess of the supply, and the business of the town being now established on a sound financial basis, the outlook as to her future growth, both in

population and wealth, is flattering. Her trade is widening steadily, and if, as is now projected, a railroad is built from Henderson, N. C., and extending through Caswell county by Yanceyville to Reidsville, through Rockingham county into Stokes, then there seems to be no good reason why Reidsville should not soon become, as she ultimately *will*, the market-centre of all the adjoining counties; and with a population of 9,000 to 12,000 become the pride, not only of her own county, but of her section of the State.

THE TOWN OF LEAKSVILLE.

BY N. S. SMITH.

The town of Leaksville is situated near the confluence of Dan and Smith's rivers, about five miles from the Virginia line. It has had an eventful history. About the year 1819 it was thought that bateau navigation of the Dan would be very profitable, and whatever town should be located at the head of navigation would be rapidly built up. Several places on the river, notably Jackson and Madison and Leaksville, were aspirants for the eligible position. The site for a town to be called Jackson, about six miles above Leaksville, was purchased by a company of capitalists, who, by flaming posters, represented the wonderful advantages that place had for a large commercial mart over all competition. So adroit and cunning was this company that many good men, at a sale of lots on the site of the expected town, invested at almost city prices. The capitalists pocketed their money and notes, and the town of Jackson was never heard of afterwards save by name.

The fall of Jackson was the up-building of Leaksville, and the town sprang up with amazing rapidity. In a short time twelve stores, a bank, a colossal hotel, a warehouse for the inspection of tobacco and flour, with many lesser establishments and a large number of private residences, gave evidence of wonderful thrift and energy in the town. Property sold at city prices, and a lot is now pointed out which sold for \$10,000 in gold.

This state of things, however, did not last long, and the town speedily decayed. The only vestige of its former glory that remains is the old bank building. From 1821 to 1883 the town ranged in

population from 250 to 300. In the year 1883 a narrow-gauge road was commenced, connecting Leaksville with Danville. It was completed about Christmas, 1883, and the town has been improving ever since. Already two good Warehouses, for the sale of leaf tobacco, are in operation. Four tobacco factories are at work, and another is being erected. Several more will be put up in the next twelve months. The population is steadily increasing, and the value of property is being constantly enhanced.

Morehead's Factory, situated on one of the finest water-powers in the State, will soon, by the building up of the town in that direction, be a part of the town. The Factory, established by the late Gov. Morehead in 1837, has been in constant operation, turning out first-class goods. Recently a woolen factory has been added to the many industries of this flourishing village, whose goods are already achieving a national reputation. The recent discovery of a very valuable mineral spring on the premises of Jones W. Burton, Esq., within a quarter of a mile of the heart of the village, will add greatly to the prosperity of the place. The remarkable efficacy of this water, especially in liver complaints, general debility and cutaneous diseases, will make it a rival of the best springs of Virginia. Although its existence has been known for only a few weeks, remarkable cures have been already effected by its use. Dr. Dabney, the State Chemist, who has recently analyzed the water, pronounces it a fine spring, and its analysis proves it full of life-sustaining properties, and its flow is so abundant that a thousand guests could use it constantly. No place in the State has a better promise for a prosperous future.

It has four flourishing churches--Methodist, Baptist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian; a flourishing academy, supplied with all the modern school paraphernalia, a public school running six months of the year, nine stores, two buggy and wagon factories, and many other lesser industries.

Lots at present can be obtained at quite reasonable rates, and no place presents greater attractions for business and a healthy home.

NOTE: Descriptions of the other towns in the county were not received by the publisher in time for insertion.

Sketch of Rockingham County, N. C.

BY P. B. JOHNSTON.

Rockingham county was formed from Guilford county in 1785, and was named in honor of Charles Watson Wentworth, Marquis of Rockingham, who was a distinguished friend of America in the English Parliament. Wentworth, the county-seat, is named in honor of the family of the House of Rockingham.

It belongs to the middle division of counties; is situated in what is known as the Piedmont section, on the northern border—being bounded by the State of Virginia on the north, Caswell county on the east, Guilford county on the south, and Stokes county on the west—and lies about one hundred miles north-west from Raleigh, the capital of the State. Its average elevation is about nine hundred feet above the level of the sea. It is rectangular in shape, being thirty miles long in an east and west direction and twenty-eight miles wide in a north and south direction, and containing 537,600 acres.

The surface is slightly undulating in the eastern part of the county, hilly in the centre, and slightly mountainous in the extreme north-west.

It has four rivers within its borders. The Dan, being the largest, enters the western part of the county and flows east to about the centre of the county, then turns north-east and flows into Virginia near the north-east corner of the county, traversing a distance of thirty-five miles, and boatable the entire way. The Mayo enters the county near the north-west corner, and flows in a south-eastern direction fifteen miles, into the Dan. The Smith enters the county near the centre of the northern border, and flows in a southern direction six miles, and into the Dan. The Haw enters the county on the southern border and flows about fifteen miles through the south-eastern part of the county.

The water-powers, capable of being utilized at small expense, aggregate upon the rivers in the county more than 5,000 horse-power; besides many large creeks, running through every portion of the county, have upon them quite a number of fine water-powers. At Eagle Falls on the Dan, by cutting a canal across a bend in the river, about 800 yards long, at a small cost, the whole river could be turned,

securing a fall of 25 feet and obtaining at least 1,500 horse-power. At many places on the Mayo water-powers can be utilized at nominal cost that would turn from 5,000 to 50,000 spindles.

The Piedmont railroad runs a distance of about twenty-five miles through the eastern part of the county. The Danville, Mocksville & Southwestern railroad terminates at Leaksville, running through the county a distance of about ten miles. There is a railroad projected up the north bank of Dan river, twenty miles of which lies within the county, that bids fair to be completed in a few years.

A great variety of minerals are found in the county; notably among them are iron, coal and lead. Iron is found in Mayo and Simpsonville townships, coal in Madison and Mayo, and lead in the western part of Oregonville. Valuable stone for building, &c., are abundant.

The climate is excelled by none, having neither the rigidity of the northern winter nor the extreme heat of the southern summer; near enough to the mountains to be blessed with their pure water and health-giving breezes, but sufficiently removed to be exempt from their blighting frosts and chilling blasts. The mean annual temperature is 56° Far.; Spring, 55°; Summer, 75°; Autumn, 57°; and Winter, 38°.

Malarial diseases are of rare occurrence, and when they exist are generally due to artificial causes and are not of a malignant type. It would indeed be difficult to find anywhere a more salubrious climate than that of this county.

Two-fifths of the land is still in original forest, abounding in a variety of growth. Notably among them are the pine, oak, hickory, and poplar. The yellow pine furnishes an important building timber. The oak is at least one-half of the forest; and among the several species are the white-oak, post-oak, black-oak, willow-oak, &c. On account of their strength, durability, and great abundance, their uses are manifold, both for domestic purposes and for exportation in various forms.

There are many species of hickory found in abundance and of great size in every part of the county. It is the most dense, rigid, and iron-like of our woods; and on account of these qualities, is superior to any other wood for making wagons, buggies and handles for many kinds of tools.

The poplar is one of the largest of our trees, frequently growing to eight feet in diameter and one hundred feet high. Like the pine,

it is chiefly valuable for building purposes, being light and easily worked, but remarkably durable.

The chestnut, walnut, maple, birch, beech, ash, mulberry, sassafras, gum, dogwood, persimmon, locust, sycamore, willow, wild cherry, &c., found here make this section noted for the extensive variety of its woods and the many uses to which they are adapted in domestic economy.

The soil is generally clayey and gravelly loam, easily tilled, and remunerates the husbandman with bountiful harvests. The rivers and creeks have upon them a considerable amount of bottom land. This is sandy and clay loam, remarkably productive, and growing all kinds of grain, vegetables and grasses in great abundance. The bottom lands on the Haw and its tributaries lying within the county, put in a proper state of cultivation, would alone produce more than sufficient corn to bread the entire population of the county. Much of these bottom lands are neglected and undrained, yet they grow a number of wild grasses indigenous to the soil, which make hay scarcely less valuable than the timothy.

Lying, as Rockingham county does, with its north-west corner jutting up to the very foot of the Blue Ridge range of mountains, and extending in the centre and east to the level lands lying along the Dan and Haw, possibly no section of country covering the same amount of territory has a soil and climate so well adapted to the successful growth of so many products. Those of chief importance and profit are tobacco, corn, wheat, oats, rye, buckwheat, hay, Irish and sweet potatoes, and a great variety of vegetables and fruits. Tobacco is the principal staple. The county grows about 5,000,000 pounds annually, producing more than any county in the State, except possibly Granville. The finest grades of this tobacco sell at from 50 to 75 cents per pound. There were a number of instances in this county last year of one person growing more than a thousand dollars' worth of tobacco, in addition to a fair yield of other crops.

Clover, orchard grass, timothy, millet, red-top, and other grasses grow well on most of the lands, and their successful cultivation has within the last few years awakened among the people an extensive interest in stock-raising.

A great variety of fruits, such as apples, peaches, pears, apricots, cherries, quinces, plums, figs, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, dewberries, and a great variety of grapes grow in abundance

and to a high degree of perfection. They furnish a variety of wholesome food, and considerable profit is realized from shipping them both in the green and dried state.

There are between one hundred and twenty-five and one hundred and fifty manufacturing establishments in the county, with an aggregate capital of about \$800,000, and making a profit of over twenty-four per cent. on the amount of capital invested. Notably among the manufacturing interests may be mentioned cotton and woolen mills, corn, flouring and saw mills, plug and smoking tobacco factories, shuttle-block factories, sash and blind factories, box factories and buggy and wagon shops. In the manufacture of tobacco about \$400,000 is invested; employment is given to 1,600 operatives, and more than 4,000,000 of pounds is worked annually.

No county is in a better financial condition than Rockingham. The Board of Commissioners having charge of the finance, are men of clear heads and clean hands. Their judicious and economical expenditure of the public money in the past is a sufficient guarantee for the future.

The aggregate valuation of property listed for taxation in 1883 was about \$4,000,000, and shows an increase in valuation since 1880 of more than twenty-nine per cent.

The education of the youth has ever been a matter of absorbing interest to our people. During 1883 more than \$13,000 was expended in teaching public schools, which were conducted by competent teachers after the most approved plans. Institutes for both white and colored teachers are maintained from the school fund for the purpose of preparing teachers to more efficiently discharge their duties as such. There are forty-six school districts in the county, and most of these districts have two neat, commodious school-houses, one for the whites and one for the blacks, in which public schools are, by our laws, (Code, Section 2,590), taught at least four months every year.

While the county has been fostering the education of the youth, and by a frugal and economical administration of its various departments encouraged the energies of its busy activities, it has not been unmindful of that unfortunate class known as the poor, for it has erected for them comfortable buildings, and maintained them in a manner that does credit to the Christian charity of its people.

The population of the county is more than 23,000. They are chiefly native-born, and about two-thirds are colored. The whites

it is chiefly valuable for building purposes, being light and easily worked, but remarkably durable.

The chestnut, walnut, maple, birch, beech, ash, mulberry, sassafras, gum, dogwood, persimmon, locust, sycamore, willow, wild cherry, &c., found here make this section noted for the extensive variety of its woods and the many uses to which they are adapted in domestic economy.

The soil is generally clayey and gravelly loam, easily tilled, and remunerates the husbandman with bountiful harvests. The rivers and creeks have upon them a considerable amount of bottom land. This is sandy and clay loam, remarkably productive, and growing all kinds of grain, vegetables and grasses in great abundance. The bottom lands on the Haw and its tributaries lying within the county, put in a proper state of cultivation, would alone produce more than sufficient corn to bread the entire population of the county. Much of these bottom lands are neglected and undrained, yet they grow a number of wild grasses indigenous to the soil, which make hay scarcely less valuable than the timothy.

Lying, as Rockingham county does, with its north-west corner jutting up to the very foot of the Blue Ridge range of mountains, and extending in the centre and east to the level lands lying along the Dan and Haw, possibly no section of country covering the same amount of territory has a soil and climate so well adapted to the successful growth of so many products. Those of chief importance and profit are tobacco, corn, wheat, oats, rye, buckwheat, hay, Irish and sweet potatoes, and a great variety of vegetables and fruits. Tobacco is the principal staple. The county grows about 5,000,000 pounds annually, producing more than any county in the State, except possibly Granville. The finest grades of this tobacco sell at from 50 to 75 cents per pound. There were a number of instances in this county last year of one person growing more than a thousand dollars' worth of tobacco, in addition to a fair yield of other crops.

Clover, orchard grass, timothy, millet, red-top, and other grasses grow well on most of the lands, and their successful cultivation has within the last few years awakened among the people an extensive interest in stock-raising.

A great variety of fruits, such as apples, peaches, pears, apricots, cherries, quinces, plums, figs, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, dewberries, and a great variety of grapes grow in abundance

and to a high degree of perfection. They furnish a variety of wholesome food, and considerable profit is realized from shipping them both in the green and dried state.

There are between one hundred and twenty-five and one hundred and fifty manufacturing establishments in the county, with an aggregate capital of about \$800,000, and making a profit of over twenty-four per cent. on the amount of capital invested. Notably among the manufacturing interests may be mentioned cotton and woolen mills, corn, flouring and saw mills, plug and smoking tobacco factories, shuttle-block factories, sash and blind factories, box factories and buggy and wagon shops. In the manufacture of tobacco about \$400,000 is invested; employment is given to 1,600 operatives, and more than 4,000,000 of pounds is worked annually.

No county is in a better financial condition than Rockingham. The Board of Commissioners having charge of the finance, are men of clear heads and clean hands. Their judicious and economical expenditure of the public money in the past is a sufficient guarantee for the future.

The aggregate valuation of property listed for taxation in 1883 was about \$4,000,000, and shows an increase in valuation since 1880 of more than twenty-nine per cent.

The education of the youth has ever been a matter of absorbing interest to our people. During 1883 more than \$13,000 was expended in teaching public schools, which were conducted by competent teachers after the most approved plans. Institutes for both white and colored teachers are maintained from the school fund for the purpose of preparing teachers to more efficiently discharge their duties as such. There are forty-six school districts in the county, and most of these districts have two neat, commodious school-houses, one for the whites and one for the blacks, in which public schools are, by our laws, (Code, Section 2,590), taught at least four months every year.

While the county has been fostering the education of the youth, and by a frugal and economical administration of its various departments encouraged the energies of its busy activities, it has not been unmindful of that unfortunate class known as the poor, for it has erected for them comfortable buildings, and maintained them in a manner that does credit to the Christian charity of its people.

The population of the county is more than 23,000. They are chiefly native-born, and about two-thirds are colored. The whites

are principally of English and Irish descent, "who learned the lessons of liberty at the feet of the prophets of American Revolution that brought down the tables of the commandments of freedom from the smoking Sinais of that struggle;" whose statesmen and orators have added to the parliamentary and forensic glory of the nation; "whose sons, falling in defense of liberty, lie mouldering upon every battle-field of our nation's glory; whose sons are brave and true; and whose women, fair as the dames of Caucasus, are as virtuous as they are fair."

"All the physical features and attributes are in harmony with the rare felicity of our geographical situation. The climate is mild and genial, the rigors of its winters and the heat of its summers being tempered by the sheltering barriers of frosts and mountains, and by the soft breezes from the sea. Its soil is fertile and wondrously varied in the range and variety of its capabilities." Its majestic hills and smiling valleys unrolling to the eye like a panarama of beauty and grandeur, and laughing into a harvest of plenty beneath the mystic touch of nature and man. From the bosom of its hills comes the sunny streams which animate the landscape, and form by their unison the majestic rivers whose rushing waters keep music with roaring wheels and humming spindles.

The purpose of this sketch being merely to allude in general terms to the resources and advantages of the county, a copious and shining field has been left for the future historian, biographer and scientist.

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Sketches of the county of Rockingham, N.



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